



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY PRESERVATION PROGRAM MARKS 5TH ANNIVERSARY ***New Web Portal for Multiple Species Conservation Program to Debut at Oct. 24 Celebration***

A celebration is planned on Thursday, Oct. 24, marking the fifth anniversary of the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program, which envisions a 172,000-acre preserve to protect threatened plant and animal species, while streamlining the land use permit process.

The event will run from noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the downtown County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway. Displays and remarks will be in the building's east courtyard, while a continuous demonstration of the MSCP's new Web portal will take place in rooms 302-303. A luncheon also will be included.

The goal of the MSCP is to maintain and enhance biological diversity in San Diego County and protect endangered, threatened and key sensitive species and habitats. County residents also will be able to use the MSCP lands for recreation. Since the MSCP was established by the County Board of Supervisors in 1997, the County and its partners have assembled more than 84,000 acres of open space out of the planned total of 98,376 acres in the unincorporated portion of the 172,000-acre preserve.

The 50-year MSCP plan also enhances the regional economy by streamlining the land use permit process. The MSCP is a cooperative effort of the County and other local government agencies, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. These public agencies are working with private landowners, conservation groups, community planning groups, developers and others to assemble the preserve.

The new MSCP portal is intended to be a "one-stop shop" for information about the MSCP. Visitors will be able to affiliate themselves with a specific user group if they choose, meaning they will have quick access to information of interest to that group. The new portal also allows visitors to create a "My MSCP" page, tailored to their individual interests and needs.

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